

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03 SCS-03 SCA-01 USIA-15

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:WDYESS:CR

APPROVED BY EUR/SOV:JFMATLOCK

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652 GDS-3

TAGS: CASC PFOR US UR

SUBJECT: DETENTION OF AP CORRESPONDENT

REF: MOSCOW 11546

1. CHIEF OF SOVIET EMBASSY CONSULAR SERVICE GALISHNIKOV CALLED AT DEPARTMENT ON OTHER BUSINESS EARLY SEPTEMBER 24 AND DEPARTMENT USED OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE LEDDINGTON INCIDENT. DEPTOFF REVIEWED FACTS CONTAINED IN REFTEL AND STATED THAT ACTIONS OF SOVIET OFFICIALS APPEARED OBJECTIONABLE ON TWO COUNTS. FIRST, LEDDINGTON PHOTOGRAPHED LEGITIMATE NEWS STORY, NOT CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL OR INSTALLATION; THEREFORE APPREHENSION OF HIM AND CONFISCATION OF HIS FILM WERE UNJUSTIFIED AND IMPROPER. ALSO, REFUSAL TO PERMIT LEDDINGTON TO TELEPHONE US CONSULAR OFFICER WAS VIOLATION OF ARTICLE 12 OF US-USSR CONSULAR CONVENTION. DEPARTMENT ASKED THAT SOVIET EMBASSY REQUEST PROMPT INVESTIGATION OF INCIDENT AND TO EXPECT DEPARTMENT RAISE MATTER FORMALLY WITH EMBASSY SHORTLY.

2. DEPARTMENT OFFICER VOLUNTEERED FURTHER PERSONAL COMMENT
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THAT ACTION OF SOVIET OFFICIALS SEEMED SELF-DEFEATING FROM

SOVIET POINT OF VIEW. ONE MORE PHOTO OF LONE DEMONSTRATOR
WOULD HARDLY HAVE BEEN NEWS, BUT BUTTRESSED BY INCIDENT,
MATTER HAD NOW HIT AMERICAN PRESS.

3. GALISHNIKOV SUGGESTED THAT PROBLEM MAY HAVE BEEN
REGULATION AGAINST PHOTOGRAPHY OF CPSU-CC. HE PROMISED
THAT SOVIET EMBASSY WOULD QUERY MOSCOW PROMPTLY. RUSH

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